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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
KEYES POINT STONE DIKE CONSTRUCTION AREA (MILE 789L AHP)
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, TENNESSEE
A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MEMPHIS DISTRICT

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JANUARY 1990

ABSTRACT

On 26 January 1990, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District in a portion of Keyes Point in Lauderdale County, Tennessee.

A records search and a pedestrian survey failed to locate any archeological, historical or architectural sites within the proposed project right-of-way. Thus, it is concluded that the proposed work will not have any impact on cultural resources.

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Introduction

An intensive cultural resources survey was conducted on 26 January 1990. The length and width of the proposed borrow area was walked over and shovel test units dug where required. The in-house records search indicated no sites in the proposed project right-of-way.

Study and Project Description

A new stone dike (No. 4½) will be constructed into the Mississippi River. The work will require bank grading and excavation of about 550 cubic yards of material for construction of a dike bankhead. The work will be conducted in an area approximately 60 meters long and 90 meters wide (about 1.4 acres). The project areas are shown on Maps 1 and 2.

Environmental Setting

The project area is high flood plain above the river. It lies approximately 1 meter below an adjacent terrace. Natural drainage has been replaced by man-made ditches. The entire project right-of-way is in plowed fields. There was no vegetation in the project area.

Various species of fauna were observed. Avifauna observed in the impact area included Carolina chickadee (Parus carolinensis), American crow (Corvus brachyrhynchos), American robin (Turdus migratorius), and Blue jay (Cyanocitta cristata).

Mammal signs observed in the area included raccoon (Procyon lotor) and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus).

Results of the Records Search

The Memphis District Corps of Engineers' Archeological Records were searched, and no prehistoric or historic cultural remains were recorded within the project area.

Survey Methodology and Results

The proposed project area is approximately 1.4 acres in size. The entire project area (60 x 90 meters) had recently been plowed and rained on. Visibility was 100%. Four transects were walked across the area. Shovel tests (approximately 30 x 30 x 50 cm) were dug near both ends of the right-of-way. The soil profiles showed loamy, sandy soil the entire depth of the shovel tests. No artifacts or feature indicators were found in the shovel tests nor on the exposed surface.

Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and an in-house records search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist within the direct impact zone of the proposed project area. It is, therefore, concluded that the proposed project will not have any impact on cultural resources.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage until its significance can be determined by the Memphis District, Corps of Engineers Environmental Analysis Branch, in conjunction with the Tennessee Historical Commission.

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Submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District.

